<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1.   (Currently Amended) An image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication and has an E-mail communicating function, comprising:

an E-mail transmitting unit, adapted to send E-mail data accompanied by an image file;

a requesting unit, adapted to ~~selectively request reply E-mail responsive to E-mail to be sent when the E-mail data is sent by said E-mail transmitting unit~~ add, selectively, information for requesting a message disposition notification to the E-mail data to be sent to a receiver by said E-mail transmitting unit;

a communication managing unit, adapted to manage transmission information of each of <u>plural bodies of</u> sent E-mail data; and

a control unit, adapted to update, in a manner capable of identifying whether or ~~nor a reply E-mail~~ <u>not a message disposition notification</u> responsive to the sent E-mail ~~which requests the reply E-mail~~ <u>to which the message disposition notification requesting information is added</u> is received, the transmission information which is managed by said communication managing unit on the basis of an identification result as to whether or not said requesting unit ~~requests~~ <u>has requested</u> the ~~reply E-mail~~ <u>message disposition notification</u> responsive to the sent E-mail and a reception result of the ~~reply E-mail~~ <u>message disposition notification</u> responsive to the sent E-mail.

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2.   (Canceled).

3.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a selecting unit, adapted to select ON/OFF of an execution of said requesting unit,

and wherein said communication managing unit manages ON/OFF of the request of the ~~reply E-mail~~ message disposition notification as transmission information for every sent E-mail.

4.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control unit updates the transmission information which is managed by said communication managing unit to first information, showing that the ~~reply E-mail~~ message disposition notification responsive to the sent E-mail has been received.

5.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control unit updates the transmission information which is managed by said communication managing unit to second information, showing that the ~~reply E-mail~~ message disposition notification responsive to the sent E-mail was not received within a predetermined period of time.

6.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an output unit, adapted to visually output the transmission information which is managed by said communication managing unit.

7.   (Currently Amended) An image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication and has an E-mail communicating function, comprising:

an E-mail receiving unit, adapted to receive E-mail data accompanied by an image file;

a detecting unit, adapted to detect control information which requests reply E-mail from the E-mail data received by said E-mail receiving unit; and

a notifying unit, adapted to notify a user of said image communication apparatus of information which represents that the control information is detected by said detecting unit.

8.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said notifying unit performs the notification before contents of the E-mail [[whose]] of which the control information was detected are visually outputted.

9.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising an output unit, adapted to visually output contents of the image file attached to the received E-mail,

and wherein when the image file attached to the E-mail [[whose]] of which the control information was detected is visually outputted, said notifying unit adds information indicative of the detection of the control information to a part of the image.

10.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein when the image file attached to the E-mail [[whose]] of which the control information was detected is visually outputted, if the reply E-mail responsive to the control information has already been sent, said notifying unit adds information indicative of a completion of a response to the control information to a part of the image.

11.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the control information is information for requesting reply E-mail indicative of a message disposition notification of the E-mail.

12.   (Currently Amended) An image communicating method used in an image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication and has an E-mail communicating function, comprising:

an E-mail transmitting step, of sending E-mail data accompanied by an image file;

a requesting step, of ~~selectively requesting reply E-mail responsive to E-mail to be sent when the E-mail data is sent in said E-mail transmitting step~~ selectively adding information for requesting a message disposition notification to the E-mail data to be sent to a receiver in said E-mail transmitting step;

a communication managing step, of managing transmission information of each of ~~the~~ plural bodies of sent E-mail data; and

a control step, of updating, in a manner capable of identifying whether or ~~not a reply E-mail~~ not a message disposition notification responsive to the sent E-mail to

which ~~requests the reply E-mail~~ <u>the message disposition notification requesting</u>

<u>information is added</u> is received, the transmission information which is managed in said

communication managing step on the basis of an identification result as to whether or not

~~said requesting step requests~~ the ~~reply E-mail~~ <u>message disposition notification</u> responsive

to the sent E-mail <u>has been requested in said requesting step</u> and a reception result of the

~~reply E-mail~~ <u>message disposition notification</u> responsive to the sent E-mail.

13.   (Canceled).

14.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12, further

comprising a selecting step of selecting ON/OFF of an execution of said requesting step,

       ~~and~~ wherein in said communication managing step, ON/OFF of the request

of the ~~reply E-mail~~ <u>message disposition notification</u> is managed as transmission

information <u>for</u> every sent E-mail.

15.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12, wherein in

said control step, the transmission information which is managed in said communication

managing step is updated to first information, showing that the ~~reply E-mail~~ <u>message</u>

<u>disposition notification</u> responsive to the sent E-mail has been received.

16.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12, wherein in

said control step, the transmission information which is managed in said communication

managing step is updated to second information, showing that the ~~reply E-mail~~ <u>message</u>

disposition notification responsive to the sent E-mail was not received within a

predetermined period of time.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, further

comprising an outputting step, of visually outputting the transmission information which is

managed in said communication managing step.

18. (Currently Amended) An image communicating method used in an

image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing

E-mail communication and has an E-mail communicating function, comprising:

an E-mail receiving step, of receiving E-mail data accompanied by an image

file;

a detecting step, of detecting control information which requests reply

E-mail from the E-mail data received in said E-mail receiving step; and

a notifying step, of notifying a user of the image communicating apparatus

of information which represents that the control information is detected in said detecting

step.

19. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 18, wherein in

said notifying step, the notification is performed before contents of the E-mail [[whose]] of

which the control information was detected are visually outputted.

20. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 18, further comprising an output step, of visually outputting contents of the image file attached to the received E-mail,

and wherein in said notifying step, when the image file attached to the E-mail [[whose]] of which the control information was detected is visually outputted, information indicative of the detection of the control information is added to a part of the image.

21. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 20, wherein in said notifying step, when the image file attached to the E-mail [[whose]] of which the control information was detected is visually outputted, if the reply E-mail responsive to the control information has already been sent, information indicative of a completion of a response to the control information is added to a part of the image

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein the control information is information for requesting reply E-mail indicative of a message disposition notification of the E-mail.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer program which is stored in a computer-readable storage medium and which is executed by a computer of an image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication and has an E-mail communicating function, said program comprising:

an E-mail transmitting step, of sending E-mail data accompanied by an image file;

a requesting step, of ~~selectively requesting reply E-mail responsive to E-mail to be sent when the E-mail data is sent in said E-mail transmitting step~~ selectively adding information for requesting a message disposition notification to the E-mail data to be sent to a receiver in said E-mail transmitting step;

a communication managing step, of managing transmission information of each of ~~the~~ plural bodies of sent E-mail data; and

a control step, of updating, in a manner capable of identifying whether or ~~nor a reply E-mail~~ not a message disposition notification responsive to the sent E-mail to which ~~requests the reply E-mail~~ the message disposition notification requesting information is added is received, the transmission information which is managed in said communication managing step on the basis of an identification result as to whether or not said requesting step requests ~~the reply E-mail~~ message disposition notification responsive to the sent E-mail and a reception result of the ~~reply E-mail~~ message disposition notification responsive to the sent E-mail.

24.   (Currently Amended) A computer program which is executed by a computer of an image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication and has an E-mail communicating function, comprising:

an E-mail receiving step, of receiving E-mail data accompanied by an image file;

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a detecting step, of detecting control information which requests reply

E-mail from the E-mail data received in said E-mail receiving step; and

a notifying step, of notifying <u>a user of the image communicating apparatus</u>

<u>of</u> information which represents that the control information is detected in said detecting

step.

25.   (Original) A computer-readable memory medium which stores a

computer program according to claim 23.

26.   (Original) A computer-readable memory medium which stores a

computer program according to claim 24.

27.   (Currently Amended) An image communicating apparatus for

sending and receiving image information through a communication network, comprising:

an E-mail unit, adapted to send and receive E-mail via an E-mail server

~~enclosed in~~ <u>connected to</u> the communication network;

a memory unit, adapted to store communication management information of

the E-mail;

a communication management information forming unit, adapted to, each

time the E-mail is sent by said E-mail unit, form communication management information

of the sent E-mail and store the communication management information into said memory

unit;

an updating unit, adapted to, when a delivery status notification for the sent E-mail from said E-mail server is received by said E-mail unit, update contents of the communication management information of the E-mail which received the delivery status notification in accordance with the received delivery status notification; and

a communication management report output unit, adapted to output a communication management report indicative of the communication management information stored in said memory unit.

28.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the communication management information includes a transmission result of the sent E-mail, and said updating unit updates the transmission result of the communication management information of the E-mail which received the delivery status notification in accordance with the received delivery status notification.

29.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the delivery status notification for the sent E-mail from said E-mail server is a notification showing one of a failed notification, a delayed notification, a normal end of transmission notification, and a relayed notification as a transmission result of the sent E-mail.

30.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 28, further comprising a discriminating unit, adapted to discriminate whether the delivery status notification for the sent E-mail from said E-mail server has been received by said E-mail

unit after the elapse of a predetermined period of time from the transmission of the E-mail or not,

and wherein if it is determined by said discriminating unit that the delivery status notification for the sent E-mail from said E-mail server has been received, said updating unit updates the transmission result of the communication management information of the E-mail which has received the delivery status notification in accordance with the received delivery status notification, and

said communication management report output unit outputs a communication management report in which the transmission result was updated as a communication management report of the sent E-mail.

31.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 29, wherein if it is determined by said discriminating unit that the delivery status notification for the sent E-mail from said E-mail server is not received, said communication management report output unit outputs a communication management report in which the transmission result of the sent E-mail has successfully been finished.

32. (Currently Amended) An image communicating apparatus for sending and receiving image information through a communication network, comprising:

an E-mail unit, adapted to send and receive E-mail via an E-mail server enclosed in said connected to the communication network;

an analyzing unit, adapted to, when a delivery status notification returned from said E-mail server in response to the E-mail transmitted by said E-mail unit is received, analyze contents of the received delivery status notification; and

an error notification information output unit, adapted to, when it is detected by the analysis of said analyzing unit that the received delivery status notification is a transmission error notification of the sent E-mail, output error notification information indicative of a transmission error of the sent E-mail.

33.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said error notification information output unit further comprises a unit adapted to generate a warning sound as the error notification information.

34.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said error notification information output unit further comprises a unit adapted to print and output the error notification information.

35.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said error notification information output unit further comprises a unit adapted to display the error notification information.

36. and 37. (Canceled)

38.   (Currently Amended) A communication result managing method which is used in an image communicating apparatus which can perform a transmission and a reception of E-mail through an E-mail server ~~enclosed in~~ connected to a communication network, comprising the steps of:

forming, each time ~~the~~ an E-mail is sent, communication management information of the sent E-mail and storing the communication management information into memory means;

updating, when a delivery status notification for the sent E-mail from ~~said~~ the E-mail server is received, contents of the communication management information of the E-mail which received the delivery status notification in accordance with the received delivery status notification; and

outputting a communication management report indicative of the communication management information stored in ~~said~~ the memory means.

39. (Canceled)

40.   (Currently Amended) A computer program, stored in a computer-readable storage medium, for a communication result management which is used when executed by a computer of an image communicating apparatus which can perform a transmission and a reception of E-mail through an E-mail server ~~enclosed in~~ connected to a communication network, said program comprising the steps of:

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forming, each time ~~the~~ an E-mail is sent, communication management information of the sent E-mail and storing the communication management information into memory means;

updating, when a delivery status notification for the sent E-mail from the E-mail server is received, contents of the communication management information of the E-mail which received the delivery status notification in accordance with the received delivery status notification; and

outputting a communication management report indicative of the communication management information stored in ~~said~~ the memory means.

41. and 42. (Canceled)

43. (Original) A computer-readable memory medium which stores a computer program according to claim 40.